

DEFEND THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS! SMASH THE REFORMIST MANEUVERS!

By CYRIL BRIGGS.

EIGHT innocent Negro boys are facing legal lynching in Alabama. All the hell of capitalism is mobilized in a furious attack on the defense as the hearing opens today before the Alabama Supreme Court of the appeal filed by the attorneys of the boys and the International Labor Defense against these hideous lynch verdicts.

Capitalism mobilizing. All the rotten agents and boot-lickers of imperialism bing rushed into the attack on the Scottsboro defense. The Alabama Supreme Court itself is an instrument of the ruling class, it exists to maintain the robbery of the workers and poor farmers and the brutal suppression of the rights of the Negro masses.

Investigators of the International Labor Defense are thrown into jail or ordered out of town. Vital evidence proving the innocence of the boys is seized and suppressed by Huntsville, Alabama, police. Pressure is being made on Chamlee, including an attempt to disbar him, to force him to withdraw from the Scottsboro defense. Every effort is being made to disrupt the defense. In the South these efforts are organized and led by Stephen Roddy, an acknowledged attorney of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In New York City, Walter White, national secretary of the NAACP is similarly engaged. Following the forced withdrawal, under the pressure of the masses, the boys, their parents and other kin, of the pretense that his organization was "defending" the boys, Mr. White has been busy visiting the offices of "liberal" publications and flooding the Negro press with vicious attacks against the Scottsboro defense. He has attacked the boys as "ignorant and vacil-

lating."

One of the fruits of Mr. White's activities in mobilizing the press against the fight to save and free the boys is seen in the current issue of the Pittsburgh Courier. This organ of the Negro bourgeoisie which originally joined the Southern lynch bosses in branding these innocent boys as "rapists" now discovers that the Scottsboro boys are being made "martyrs of I.L.D. Cause."

In a front page article by its New York correspondent, Floyd J. Calvin, the Courier echoes the demands of the Southern white ruling class that George W. Chamlee abandon the Scottsboro defense. This article says:

"George W. Chamlee should resign the Scottsboro defense after the outrageous public meeting held by the International Labor Defense in this city Sunday, at which Mr. Chamlee was personally present, according to reports in the daily press."

And what made this Scottsboro protest meeting so "outrageous" in the eyes of this bootlicker of the imperialists? Because, says Mr. Calvin:

"The meeting definitely linked the Scottsboro case with the 'Communist International.'" And what is Mr. Calvin's "proof" that the Scottsboro case is linked up with the Communist International? Says Mr. Calvin:

"Proof that the Scottsboro boys are but fuel for the Communistic propaganda flame was furnished by several speakers. J. Louis Engdahl, secretary of the ILD declared at the meeting that their task is to 'tie up the Scottsboro case with the struggle against landlords, with the struggle for bread and for jobs, so that we can eventually draw 10,000,000 American workers into the class struggle and move on to victory.'"

From the very first, the apologists and defenders of imperialist oppression of the Negro masses have attempted to cover up the lynch terror nature of the Scottsboro death verdicts which would burn eight innocent Negro children in the electric chair as a means of terrorizing the Negro masses into submission to the starvation program of capitalism, into submission to the outrageous robbery and enslavement of the Negro majorities in the "Black Belt" by the big landowners, merchants, bankers and their hangers-on.

The Intrenational Labor Defense and the League of Struggle for Negro Rights have correctly and consistently pointed out that the struggle to save and free the nine innocent victims of class justice, is at the same time a struggle for absolute and unconditional equality for the Negro masses in this country, against landlord-capitalist oppression and plundering of the Negro masses, and against the starvation system which forced these working class boys to bum their way on freight trains in a desperate hunt for work in the effort to help their starving families, and then caught them up in the net of a vicious frame-up and lynch terror.

It is on this understanding of the Scottsboro frame-up that millions of Negro and white workers and poor farmers in this country and thru-out the entire world have rallied in mass defense of the nine innocent Negro boys. More than ever now, it is necessary that the world working class thunder its angry protests against the attempt of the imperialists and their white and Negro lackeys to carry through these hideous lynch verdicts. Workers! Demonstrate your furious resentment against this brazen class justice! Hold meetings everywhere! Demonstrate against the lynch terror! Send protest telegrams to the Alabama Supreme Court! Defend the Negro masses! Demand the immediate and unconditional release of these innocent working class children! Smash the lynch verdicts!

War and the Marine Industry